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Circulation During February.

W. R. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis

Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual

number of full and complete copies of The Daily

and Sunday Republic printed during the month of

February, 1905, all in regular editions, was as per

schedule below:

Date. Copies. Date. Copies.

1.....103,700 15.....102,200

2.....101,700 16.....102,000

3.....100,500 17.....102,300

4.....102,900 18.....102,500

5 (Sunday).....123,300 19 (Sunday).....123,400

6.....104,000 20.....103,700

7.....102,200 21.....102,200

8.....102,300 22.....102,200

9.....102,300 23.....102,000

10.....101,300 24.....107,400

11.....102,500 25.....102,000

12 (Sunday).....126,700 26 (Sunday).....127,200

13.....102,100 27.....102,000

14.....102,500 28.....102,100

Total for the month.....2,262,200

Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over

or filed.....79,000

Net number distributed.....2,183,200

Average daily distribution.....102,073

And said W. R. Carr further says that the number

of copies returned and reported unsold during

the month of February was 13,900 per cent.

W. R. CARR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day

of February, 1905. J. F. FARISH.

My term expires April 25, 1905.

FREE BRIDGE LEGISLATION.

In considering plans to utilize the authority to

construct a free bridge the city would make the

most speed by first thoroughly understanding what

is to be done.

An ordinance cannot very well outline a method

until the Municipal Assembly is in possession of

the facts; the main lines of which facts must be two

—the nature and extent of present hindrances to

commerce and the nature and extent of the facilities

to be provided.

The Council amendment to the present bill

seems properly designed to provide for this information.

Certainly the proposed Terminal

Commission cannot proceed until it knows the facts;

and the facts should be known to the Municipal

Assembly and the public before further steps are

taken.

PREVENTION AS WELL AS PROTECTION.

Protests are made by the morning kicking-organ

and by professional gang politicians against

the purchase of a lot in South St. Louis, at Compton

avenue and North Dakota street, for a fire-

engine house. The lot cost the city \$13,000 and the

building will cost about \$18,000. It is impossible to

see what reasonable objection could be raised to

the construction of an engine-house at that point,

as the institutions and residences and stores in the

vicinity need protection against fire. The people

living in that section and owning property there

undoubtedly regard the administration's work in

the proper spirit.

During the past four years important advance-

ment has been made in the Fire Department. The

administration is giving special attention to not

only protection against fire, but also to prevention.

The plans for an engine-house at Compton avenue

and North Dakota street, in a locality where there

are many schools, hospitals, factories, stores, resi-

dences and institutions of all kinds, call attention

to what has been done. The administration takes

the view that adequate protection is equivalent to

prevention.

There is a new engine-house at Eleventh street

and Lucas avenue, another at Ninth and Market

streets, another at Pierce and Manchester avenues,

another at King's highway and Morgan street, and

the administration proposes new buildings in other

parts of the city, especially in remote districts.

The house at Eleventh street and Lucas avenue

contains two new engines, two new hose wagons

and a new truck. Thirty-three firemen are em-

ployed there. Twenty men are employed in the

house at King's highway and Morgan street. A new

warehouse has been built at Twentieth street and

of the most system governing the Fire Depart-

ment, of the better discipline and greater efficiency

of the Fire Department and of the better protec-

tion afforded, the gangsters and the morning kick-

ing-organ have nothing to say. But that need not

surprise citizens. The gangsters and the morning

kicking-organ are opposed to reform and progress.

They object even to protection against fire.

THE FUTURE OF ST. LOUIS.

Not a grand jury has adjourned in years with-

out lamenting the overcrowding of the city, the

disappearance of the city and the dilapidation of public

buildings. Not a commercial, civic or industrial

organization has allowed any considerable period

to elapse without expressing a desire for visible

permanent improvements, and without signifying,

at the same time, the important relation which

public work bears to commercial and industrial

prosperity.

It is impossible to get away from the fact that

the appearance and the sanitary conditions of a

city are accessories to growth and prosperity. Business

may thrive after a fashion in a slovenly city,

but it will not increase as rapidly as it should.

New residents may come to a city in order to bet-

ter themselves in a material way, but, if the city

is unkempt or unprogressive or does not offer the

best conveniences of living, their hearts are else-

where, and they are ready to depart.

The condition of public buildings, of streets, of

alleys, of sewers, of parks and of public property

in general reflect the character of a community.

Appearance and conveniences are assets which in-

voke trade and swell the population. Public im-

provements are among the very best advantages.

They afford innumerable accommodations which

multiply the pleasures of metropolitan existence,

and, in exemplifying the spirit of progress, they

attest to a city's resources and energy.

St. Louis discovered last year the connection be-

tween public improvements and local prosperity.

The World's Fair was but an indicator for the

great transformation and the civic pride. The

World's Fair attracted attention to St. Louis, but

it was the popular impulse back of the World's

Fair which really exploited St. Louis. Had the

city not been improved for the occasion, its ap-

pearance entirely altered, the benefits would not

be as large as they are, and there would be a reac-

tion instead of the acceleration which is manifest.

The proposed issue of \$3,000,000 of bonds for

building sewer, park, parkway and other im-

provements accords with the circumstances of advance-

ment. The work which this issue contemplates is

both necessary and desirable. In order to realize

from the attendant prospects it is incumbent upon

St. Louis to accept the most favorable opportuni-

ties. St. Louis cannot go backward, but must hold

to its record and maintain its reputation as a great

city.

The business interests, the labor interests, all

interests are concerned in civic betterment. The

improvements are necessary from a municipal

standpoint, and they assure economy from a mu-

nicipal standpoint. They are just as necessary from

a commercial and an industrial standpoint. Business

and labor will gain through the work which is

planned; they would suffer should the improvements

not be made. St. Louis is face to face with a rare

opportunity. Last year was only a beginning. The

enthusiasm of the people this year will go far

toward deciding the future of St. Louis.

CONSCIENCE SHARPENED.

A few days ago the United States Pension Com-

missioner received a genuine surprise in the form

of a letter from a South Dakota veteran. This man,

who had been drawing a pension for disabilities in-

curred in the late unfortunate civil affair, com-

pletely recovered his health a short time ago. Writ-

ing to the Pension Commissioner, he said: "Now,

I don't think it is right for me to draw a pension

when I ain't sick, so kindly strike my name from

the list and don't send me any more pension money.

I simply can't take it."

In a department daily flooded with applications

on the ground of disabilities which the applicants

have obviously forgotten all about, it is no wonder

that the letter produced a shock.

Recently the United States Treasurer has re-

ceived several large sums of money from persons

who have defrauded the Government and desire to

make restitution. Last week a package of crisp

thousand-dollar bills came in, and a few days be-

fore a package of hundred-dollar bills. In all, many

thousands have been sent in by conscience-touched

persons.

These matters should not be held phenomenal.

A majority of people in this day and generation

have good working consciences. There are a great

many individuals who would not receive a pension

to which they are not entitled. Nor is remorse over

dishonesty strikingly unique. But these facts are

good signs, reassuring us that conscience is strongly

operative, encouraging us to think the best of the

times; and they are good examples, for which rea-

son they deserve public mention.

HON. J. N. FOOTE AND MAJOR WARNER.

Honorable J. N. Foote, formerly of Knobnoster,

later of Protem, Taney County, was in town

Wednesday and aired his views on the senatorial

election. He exhibited no tinge of envy or bitter-

ness over the result, though some disappointment

must have been inevitable to one who figured so

prominently in party calculations and discussions.

Honorable Foote at one time, indeed, was an an-

nounced candidate for the honor, and it is probable

that Representative Wainwright would have started

a movement towards him had the election continued

longer. Later he renounced his candidacy. At

another time Foote engaged in open correspondence

with another prominent candidate, Doctor Yates,

of Newbo, concerning the honor, in which he vowed

that he did not want it himself, but advised the

doctor not to take it. This latter advice was seized

upon by Foote's enemies as an evidence of sour-

grapes spirit. But if there was any bitterness in

him at that time it has all disappeared, as his in-

terview proves.

"Our old g. o. p. has come out noble," he said

Wednesday as he accepted a cigar from The Re-

public's representative, "and I am glad to avail

myself of this opportunity to show there is no ill-

feeling on my part, and I also want to avail my-

self of the opportunity to endorse Major Warner.

Although I have never had an opportunity of meet-

ing him personally I know what he is, as I served

on a jury before him once when I was living back

in old Knobnoster. Those were the days when he

was United States District Attorney and I was

nothing but a private citizen—a kind of a high pri-

rate in the rear rank." He continued: "Little did I

dream then that we would one day be rival candi-

dates for the senatorship. As I have remarked on

previous occasions, life is full of vicissitudes.

"I am glad to endorse Warner, glad to tell the

people of this grand old State that Warner is a

man worthy of the honor, glad to assure Missouri

that it will be well represented. He will look and

act like a Senator better than almost any other man

I know. I was about to say better than anybody,

but I make an exception in favor of my old fel-

low-tourman, Colonel Wells H. Hedges. He was

also formerly of Knobnoster, you know, and I ad-

mise him for that and many other reasons. In

fact, though you may not have noticed it, there

is some resemblance between him and Major War-

ner. Both are a credit to our grand old State and

our grand old party.

"But, speaking of Major Warner, one thing that